



Farmingdale, NY—Governor Eliot Spitzer and Congressman Steve Israel (D-NY) highlighted a Green Schools Agenda on Friday at a Green Schools Summit that they convened at SUNY Farmingdale together with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA). They discussed how the new State-issued “High Performance” School energy standards can be strengthened by federal legislation that provides matching funds to school districts to make improvements to reduce energy use through renewable energy and efficiency technology.

"It is critical that we provide our children with safe and healthy learning environments," said Governor Spitzer. "We often miss opportunities to implement energy efficiency initiatives simply because of a lack of funding, particularly for cash-strapped school districts throughout New York State. I applaud Congressman Israel's enterprising leadership. His legislation would provide much-needed federal resources to help create productive environments where children can develop conservation values."

"Many schools were built when energy prices were low. This aging infrastructure is blowing tax dollars out the windows," said Congressman Israel, a Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, which sets funding levels for federal energy spending. "By incentivizing schools to retrofit with energy efficient technologies and renewable resources, we can save tax dollars, create new energy markets, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. That's why I've introduced legislation to provide federal matching funds to school districts that implement the state energy efficiency guidelines announced last month right here on Long Island."

First Lady Silda Wall Spitzer said: "By modeling green practices in our schools, we can instill important values about ecological sustainability and environmental stewardship in our next generation, while also taking steps to reverse global warming. Together, under Congressman Israel's leadership in Washington, schools will have a greater incentive to pursue these measures and reduce our collective carbon imprint."

"LIPA applauds Congressman Israel's efforts to assist school districts statewide in their efforts to meet the new State-issued 'High Performance' School energy efficiency standards," said Long Island Power Authority President and CEO Kevin S. Law. "Long Island school districts that seek to meet the new standards can count on LIPA's assistance in helping them to meet

those goals.”

“Implementing energy efficient and environmentally responsible improvements in schools not only improves the environment as a whole, but enhances the learning environment within schools,” said Paul D. Tonko, president and CEO of NSYERDA. “Green schools are healthy, energy efficiency, and comfortable and have been shown to contribute to reduced absenteeism and better teacher and staff retention.”

Earlier this year, Governor Spitzer and Congressman Israel met to discuss how New York schools could “go green” to reduce their fossil fuel use and decrease their heating costs. They requested that NYSERDA and LIPA convene the Green Schools Summit so that area superintendents, principals, school board officials and managers of school buildings, grounds and fleets could learn about best practices for reducing their energy consumption and employing advanced energy technology and building improvements.

Last month, the New York State Education Department (SED) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) announced new guidelines to encourage the use of energy efficient design when building and renovating schools. These voluntary guidelines, known as the “Collaborative for High Performance Schools” (NY-CHPS), were created through a joint effort of SED and NYSERDA. NY-CHPS will help schools develop and maintain learning environments that contribute to improved academic achievement while reducing operating costs and protecting and conserving our natural resources.

Congressman Israel’s legislation will provide federal matching funds (up to 50% of a project’s total cost) to school district implementing state guidelines through investment in energy efficiency upgrades and the use of renewable energy technology.